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SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORTTentative Plans for Antiwar Demonstrations -- Spring 1971

On the weekend of 19-21 February, 2,000 antiwar activists assembled for a Student Mobilization Committee conference at Catholic University. Certain spring protest plans were made at that time, but of greater significance is the fact that this conference, consisting almost entirely of individuals affiliated with the Socialist Workers Party family of organizations, flatly refused to coordinate spring efforts with the CPUSA-influenced People's Coalition for Peace and Justice. This gathering declined to alter their planned date of 24 April for massive, nonviolent demonstrations at Washington, D.C. and at San Francisco and declined to support the People's Peace Treaty that represents the important propaganda contribution of the National Student Association. The People's Peace Treaty was signed in December at Hanoi by David Ifshin, president of the NSA, and a 15-member delegation of American radical youth and by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong representatives. At Catholic University the SWP youth group, the Young Socialist Alliance (direct controlling force of the Student Mobe), opposed endorsement of the treaty because it denied the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination and because the wording of the treaty in setting forth the demand that the Nixon administration "set the date" for withdrawal was contrary to the SWP's demand for "immediate" withdrawal.

At about the date of the Catholic University meeting, Xuan Thuy, chief North Vietnamese delegate to the Paris Peace Talks, called upon the "progressive American people" to unite in a wide and strong antiwar movement to curb new U.S. military adventures.

One week later, the weekend of 27-28 February, the PCPJ met in Washington with representatives of the SWP-sponsored National Peace Action Coalition and decided on joint sponsorship of the spring antiwar effort. This series of events appears to be more than coincidental and tends to indicate an international flavor in "calling the shots" for the American antiwar movement. The relationship between these

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two major groups remains tenuous and unstable, and the public face of the coalition will find it difficult to conceal the true emotions of their leaderships. Simply stated, the two major forces involved continue to entertain serious ideological and tactical differences. In electing to co-sponsor the 24 April demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco the PCPJ undoubtedly face the possibility of a SWP success followed by undisputed SWP leadership in future revolutionary causes. It would appear, at any rate, that the CPUSA simply couldn't risk missing out on a success.

A third force is definitely in the picture for spring and must seriously be considered. This force is the growing independent militancy of Rennie Davis and those associated with him. Rennie Davis, since last summer, has been building a campus constituency for increased militancy this spring. He is reportedly greatly disturbed over the recently formed coalition and probably plans to do his own thing this spring. In any event, Davis, following the 27-28 February meeting at Washington, has continued to preach serious disruption in Washington for May. The next continuation meeting (which will probably include all three major forces) is scheduled to be held on 13 March. At this meeting and at future continuation meetings antiwar planning will be further refined. At this moment, however, a tentatively scheduled calendar of events is as follows:

13 March, Las Vegas. --Ralph Abernathy and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and George Wiley of the National Welfare Rights Organization will probably stage additional demonstrations in Nevada. Both organizations, though continuing to push their individual interests of repression, racism and poverty, have thrown in with the PCPJ for antiwar-oriented demonstrations.

15 March, Nationwide. --The SMC has set this date for nationwide action in local areas to demand an end to the draft.

2-4 April, Nationwide. --Nationwide local actions against hunger, war and repression will be led by the SCLC and the NWRO in commemoration of the date of the assassination of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Both the NPAC and the PCPJ are reportedly sponsoring joint actions and rallies in many cities on the same day. On 4 April Abernathy plans to drive a SCLC "poor people's mule train" into New York's financial district. NPAC and the Student Mobe reportedly will encourage, on the above dates, black moratoriums in local areas.

10 April, Washington, D. C. --Radical feminist groups informally affiliated with the previously mentioned organizations are planning a demonstration at the Pentagon on 10 April. No additional details are yet known.

15 April, Nationwide. --Reportedly many tax resistance groups around the country will publicly refuse to pay taxes destined for military purposes and instead contribute funds to local organizations fighting racism, poverty and repression.

19-23 April, Washington, D. C. --The Vietnam Veterans Against the War with help from Jane Fonda and others plans a march on the Capitol building during this period. Relatives of prisoners of war and of dead American military men will be invited to join in a march at Arlington National Cemetery where ceremonies are scheduled. Other activities proposed during this period include a war crimes tribunal on the Capitol steps, a 24-hour White House vigil, and a ceremonial returning of medals.

24 April, Washington, D. C. and San Francisco. --A "mammoth" assembly is scheduled near the White House on this date. The assembly will be followed by a march on the Capitol and is presently sponsored by the entire antiwar movement. All groups involved will focus on the demand for immediate withdrawal of military forces from Southeast Asia, but the PCPJ to satisfy their variety of subscribers will also present demands for a \$5,500 annual minimum wage and for the freeing of all political prisoners. A parallel action at San Francisco is also scheduled. Antiwar leaders have maintained that the demonstrations on the 24th will be peaceful in character with no planned civil disobedience on that day.

26-30 April, Washington, D. C. --Increased activities by the PCPJ will start during this period. Present plans call for mass lobbying at all Government institutions related to militarism and social welfare. At present this appears to be the first demonstration period where CIA facilities (probably only at Langley) will be vulnerable to picketing, demonstrations and possibly harassment of Agency employees.

1 May, Washington, D. C. --A youth festival is scheduled and a mass rally to present publicly the People's Peace Treaty to the Government. This action was actually decided six weeks ago at an Ann Arbor radical student and youth conference.

2 May, Washington, D.C. -- The PCPJ plans a mass, "inspirational" rally to prepare those demonstrators present for "intensified mass civil disobedience."

3-4 May, Washington, D.C. -- Intensified civil disobedience and disruption is scheduled in D.C. on these dates. It appears that this period will be the second crisis for the CIA at Langley, the Defense Department at the Pentagon, Department of Justice and other agencies.

5 May, Washington, D.C. and Nationwide. -- A national peace moratorium will be called in all cities and on all campuses on this date. May 5 is a significant date historically and actions will be sponsored by the NPAC, the PCPJ, the Student Mobe and others. The 5th of May is designed to celebrate the anniversary of the Cambodian invasion and the Kent State slayings. Antiwar spokesmen hope that the size of the demonstration will exceed the scope of 15 October 1969 when one of the most effective antiwar demonstrations ever held was staged. May 5 has also been prominently mentioned as the date on which antiwar activists would "stop the Government" if the Government refused to end the war in Indochina.

16 May, Nationwide. -- Antiwar activists have selected this date, Armed Forces Day, as the day of solidarity with the GI antiwar movement. Action is scheduled in support of protests by GIs at military bases around the country.

Though reports are unconfirmed, there are also indications that the local Rennie Davis support group, the May Day Collective, is planning a minimally related series of events in the D.C. area. Reportedly Davis is negotiating for an opened land camp site in the McLean, Virginia area that appears to be shaping up as a temporary hippie enclave to exert its own kind of antiwar pressure on the establishment. Tentative plans call for "the new nation" to gather for a "festival of life." Additionally, the convening of the "dope dealers' festival" on 29 April has been reported. In early May this group is scheduled to march on D.C. with a destination of Montrose Park in the Georgetown section. Additional details will be reported as they become firm.

Through coming weeks frictions and pressures within the shaky coalition of antiwar activists will intensify. Although there will be undoubtedly some disruptions of the city, and the Agency for the first time in history of the antiwar movement will probably experience some disruptions, it is not believed at this time that the two principal weeks

of planned activities will be productive in building a larger antiwar movement. It is unrealistic, for instance, to believe that a large contingent of antiwar radicals can spare the time required to pull off such an ambitious schedule of events. Further, the date that leaders hope will exceed fall 1969 demonstrations is a Wednesday and a workday. At this time it would seem improbable that in numbers the two weeks of scheduled activities would exceed 40,000 participants.

Demonstrators will be in D. C. in the largest numbers on 24 April and on 2 May. The greatest threat to CIA and other "military-related" organizations will be 26-30 April and 3-5 May.